



CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

JACK O'CONNELL

STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

February 3, 2009

Vince Matthews, State Administrator/Trustee
Oakland Unified School District
1025 2nd Avenue, Room 301
Oakland, CA 94606

Dear Mr. Matthews:

The fiscal and academic health of the Oakland Unified School District has been the foundation of our work together in Oakland. As we have discussed, I am concerned about the ongoing financial well-being of all the district's schools, and in particular, the district's charter schools. To date, the District's 32 charter schools have not been formal beneficiaries of revenues from the district's parcel tax or other local discretionary funds, putting them at a disadvantage vis-à-vis their peer schools.

Since the District supports all students who are served in Oakland public schools, including charter and traditional schools, there is potentially an equity problem in this situation with regard to the eight thousand students served by charter schools in Oakland. It is particularly noteworthy that local students served by the public charter schools are by-and-large thriving academically in those settings.

I appreciate your hard work last year to put a measure on the ballot to provide new revenues to the District and also remedy this fiscal situation. I regret that it was not successful, but I know you are continuing to work toward a permanent solution to this funding equity issue. In the meantime, please apportion to each charter school \$60 per enrolled student as a means of addressing the problem. This is meant to be one-time only adjustment while a longer term plan is pursued.

Thank you, and keep up the good work, Vince. As always, call me if you have any questions or suggestions.

Sincerely,

JACK O'CONNELL

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